

Tuesday, March 13, 2012

Legislative Office Building – Room 1E

Bill#5222 1: 00 p.m.

HED Testimony@cga.ct.gov

Email: Gail.Lavielle@housegop.ct.gov

Good afternoon, Ladies and Gentlemen:

My name is Maryann Rossi, I am the Interim Dean of the School of Professional Studies at Western CT State University. I am here today to testify on behalf of Bill#5222 which would allow the re-employment of public school teachers in public institutions of higher education. The passing of this bill would allow the CT State University systems to have the best practitioners from the public school system to help train the next generation of teachers.

The CT State Universities are charged with educating Connecticut's work force. This Bill is an integral component of this mission.

Many of the retired public school teachers and administrators are graduates of the CT State University on an undergraduate or graduate level. They would have to work with the teacher preparation programs and give back to a system that helped shape their own careers.

The 45% rule does not affect the private universities in CT; they may hire retired public school personnel without being hampered by this regulation. Tuition at these private universities in CT is much greater than what the State Universities charge. Our students at the State Universities deserve to have

the very best faculty we can provide. We have many talented and amazing young people who would be hard pressed to attend college if it were not for the existence of the State Universities.

Much is being written about school reform and closing the "achievement gap" in CT. We have talked to Superintendents in the State and they are urging the teacher preparation programs to work even more closely with the public schools. What is being termed a "clinical faculty", a component of which would be those retired from the public schools, is being withheld from the State Universities by the 45% rule.

Because these individuals are already retired from public school service, they are not able to establish a second career but for the most part would participate for 3 – 5 years. This clinical faculty would be forever changing and bringing the most updated and successful teaching strategies to the new teacher training candidates.

This Bill would benefit not just teacher preparation programs but other shortage areas such as math and science.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Maryann Rossi
Interim Dean
School of Professional Studies
Western CT State University
181 White Street
Danbury CT 06810